

The Heritage Society of Essex & Middle River



Founded
September 26, 1968
Officers 1969-70

Seated: Mary Corey (Treasurer), Laura Hensler (Vice President), Alex Baumgartner (President), Helen Baumgartner (Secretary). Standing: Horace McCarter (Publicity), Emma Dunham (Trustee), Earle Scoggins (Sergeant at Arms), Virginia Borsos (Trustee), John Ruley (Historian), Kay Wolfe (Trustee).

We thank our founding members Mr. and Mrs. Alex and Helen Baumgartner, their family, and peers for establishing our premiere Baumgartner Collection. The collection captures a historical snapshot of life in Essex and Middle River, Maryland. The collection contains nearly 300 categorical binders documenting our community activities with articles, pamphlets, and photographs from 1969 through the 1980s. The Heritage Society has scanned the collection to our website to share with our extended community. As we continue to build new collections, we are seeking new materials such as photographs and ephemera that pertain to the community and business history of Essex and Middle River. Please contact essexmuseum@gmail.com if you have historical memories or items to donate or would like to become a member.

The Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River, Inc.
516 Eastern Blvd, Essex, Maryland 21221
essexmuseum.com

Collections processed and scanned by: Rita Sellers, Jenny Parish, and Scott Huffines

291

ESSEX CANDLE Co.
OF ESSEX

Wisconsin 7-3402

B 6662

194

Store No.

Dept.

Ship Via.

Terms:

C.O.D.

	ORDER NO.	PATTERN	LENGTH	WIDTH		PIECES	PRICE		
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		Red					170	07	43
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TOTAL PKGS.									
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Invoice Will Follow By Mail

Invoice Will Follow By Mail

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New York,

19

SOLD TO

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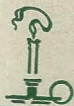
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Ship Via

Terms: 29.00

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Regular Bill Will Follow



Do you know
the legend
Of the airy little
Sprite
Who hides within
these candles
And escapes on
Christmas night?
He'll bring good
luck and happiness
If you but see
his shade
When the Bayberry's
dying light rays
On Christmas night
will fade.



**BAYBERRY
CANDLES**
Manufactured by
ESSEX CANDLE CO.
ESSEX, MD



Do you know
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**BABERRY
CANDLES**
MANUFACTURED BY
ESSEX CANDLE CO.
ESSEX MD.

The United States of America



To All To Whom These PRESENTS Shall Come:

This is to Certify That by the records of the UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE it appears that FRANK J. SPAETH, doing business as THE ESSEX CANDLE COMPANY, of Essex, Maryland,

did, on the 20th day of May, 1930, duly file in said Office an application for REGISTRATION of a certain

TRADE-MARK

shown in the drawing for the goods specified in the statement, copies of which drawing and statement are hereto annexed, and duly complied with the requirements of the law in such case made and provided, and with the regulations prescribed by the COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS.

And, upon due examination, it appearing that the said applicant is entitled to have said TRADE-MARK registered under the law, the said TRADE-MARK has been duly REGISTERED this day in the UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE, to

Frank J. Spaeth, doing business as The Essex Candle Company, his heirs or assigns.

This certificate shall remain in force for TWENTY YEARS, unless sooner terminated by law.

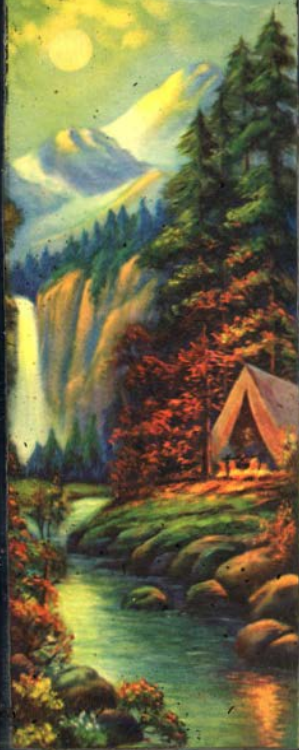
In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the PATENT OFFICE to be affixed, at the City of Washington, this twenty-eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and fifty-fifth.

Thomas E. Robertson
Commissioner of Patents.

ATTEST:

E. P. Huston
Law Examiner.

Greetings from
ESSEX CANDLE CO.
ESSEX, MD.



Oct. 15/42
**Frank A. Spaeth,
Retired Candle Man,
Succumbs at 72**

Frank A. Spaeth, 72, a retired candlemaker, died Thursday at his home, 109 Pond Lane. He was a member of the Ushers' Association of Assumption Church.

Surviving are two sons, Frank J., Jr., of Baltimore and George of Syracuse; three daughters, Mrs. Carl Dahlin of Syracuse, Mrs. Ray Rathbun of Fairmount and Mrs. Lloyd Hilton of Bridgeport, Conn.; seven grandchildren; a sister, Mrs. Gamerdinger of Syracuse, and a brother, George Spaeth.

The funeral will be conducted at 8:30 A.M. Monday at the home and at 9 A.M. at Assumption Church. Burial will be in Assumption Cemetery.

The Essex Candle Company: a proud tradition

By Paul M. Blitz

For nearly 40 years, Frank and Hazel Speath made candles in Essex. Located on Helena Avenue, the Essex Candle Company, was in business from 1933 to 1969. Manufacturing handmade dinner candles and handmade dripless candles which are called tapers, it was a family-owned wholesale business which sold candles in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Originally from New York, Mr. Speath worked for the Will and Balmer Candle Company in Syracuse, New York. It was here he met his future wife Hazel. Later, he went to Newark, New Jersey to start a candle factory. In 1926, Frank came to Baltimore to work for the A. Cross Candle Co. Hazel came to Baltimore that same year and the two of them were married. Mrs. Speath liked Baltimore very much. "I think the people here are real friendly; I don't think either of us wanted to go back (to New York)," she commented.

Although very few candles were sold in Essex, the Essex Candle Company was a booming business. According to Mrs. Speath, "We could not make them fast enough." This was true considering some of their clientele. The Essex Candle Company supplied candles to Hutzler's Department Store; O'Neill's Department Store; the May Company; and the Emerson Hotel in Baltimore and the Adams Company; Garrison's; and the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The only church that bought candles from the Essex Candle Company was St. John's Lutheran Church. Mrs. Speath said that there were a number of Catholic churches in Baltimore but none of them bought candles from their shop because at that time Catholic churches could only use candles that were made from 100 per cent bees wax. This ruling was later changed.

Fred Grupp started working for the Speaths when he was 16-years-old. He was a very hard worker, employed at the Essex Candle Company after school and on weekends and Mr. and Mrs. Speath treated Fred like a son. Later, Fred got married and started working at the Bethlehem Steel Corporation in Sparrows Point. However, the Speaths never lost their good worker. Fred continued working at the Essex Candle Company on weekends, around the holidays, and whenever he was needed. Many times Fred made candles all night and went to work at Bethlehem Steel the next morning. For almost 40 years, he worked for the Speaths. Mr. Grupp gave a detailed explanation of the whole process:

"Tapers were made from hard and soft paraffin wax. Steric was added as a hardening agent. These were placed into an aluminum container sitting over two gas burners to melt the paraffin. The melted paraffin was dipped out with a pot and put into a tank stationed under the machine."

He continued, "Wicks were made from

special woven cotton fibers and were of different thickness. Wicks were cut to different lengths. They were cut to make tapers from 6½ inches to 24 inches. After cutting the wicks, they were hand-knotted on one end. The wicks were then hung on boards that were used on the machine."

Fred added, "The machine had four slides that revolved over the large tank of paraffin. The slides were stopped over the center of the tank and hand lowered to a certain point to dip the wicks into the paraffin. After dipping the tapers to a certain thickness, the boards from the machine were transferred to holders on the wall so they could cool (off). When the thickness of the tapers were reached, about 15/16 of an inch, they were taken off the boards, one dozen at a time, dipped into water to help cool them and put on a marble table and with measured sticks cut to proper length. They were now ready to color. The knowledge of using different pigments to make a certain color is an art in itself," says Mr. Grupp.

"Each taper was hand-dipped into hot colored paraffin, then dropped into water to harden the color and this also put a shine on the tapers. This taper was then taken out of the water and hand dried with rags made from paraffin bags. The knot was cut off and was ready to be packed. They were rolled individually into cellophane or tissue paper, both ends twisted and put into boxes that usually held one dozen tapers. These boxes were hand-stamped with size, color, and company name then packaged for shipment," concludes Mr. Grupp.

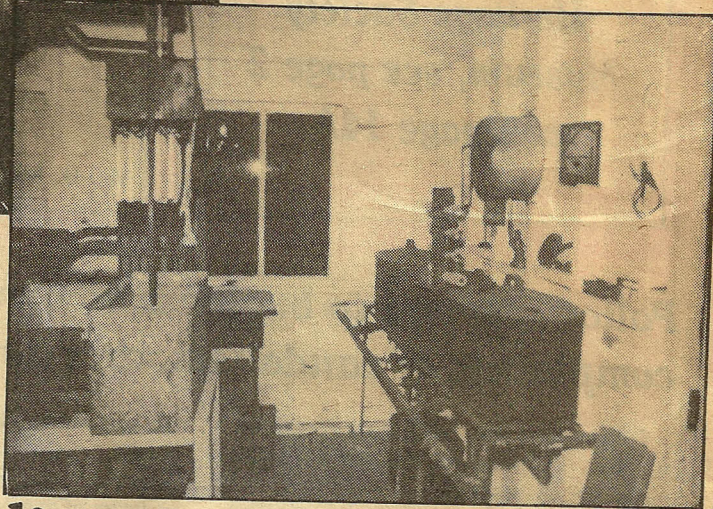
The average taper sold for 5¢ apiece. Mrs. Speath noted that today it would be too costly to produce tapers the way they made them.

In 1969, Mr. Speath died and the Essex Candle Company closed its doors. The Speaths were career partners as well as husband and wife, having built a successful business together. When her husband-partner died, Mrs. Speath closed down the candle operation because "it would not be the same without him." To this day, she remains a widow living in the same house that they bought 40 years ago.

In 1975, Mrs. Speath donated the entire candle making operation to the Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River. A replica of the Essex Candle Company is on display at the Heritage Society Museum. The public is invited to visit and see a mock candle making demonstration. Christmas tours are scheduled for Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The annual Essex Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will take place on Dec. 6 starting at 4 p.m. It will include caroling by neighborhood churches and schools, a visit from Santa Claus in his sleigh, and lots of good cheer. Bring the whole family and get into the Christmas spirit early this year. This is one celebration that you do not want to miss.

This replica of the Essex Candle Co. is located along the "Avenue of Shops" on the lower level of the Heritage Society Museum.

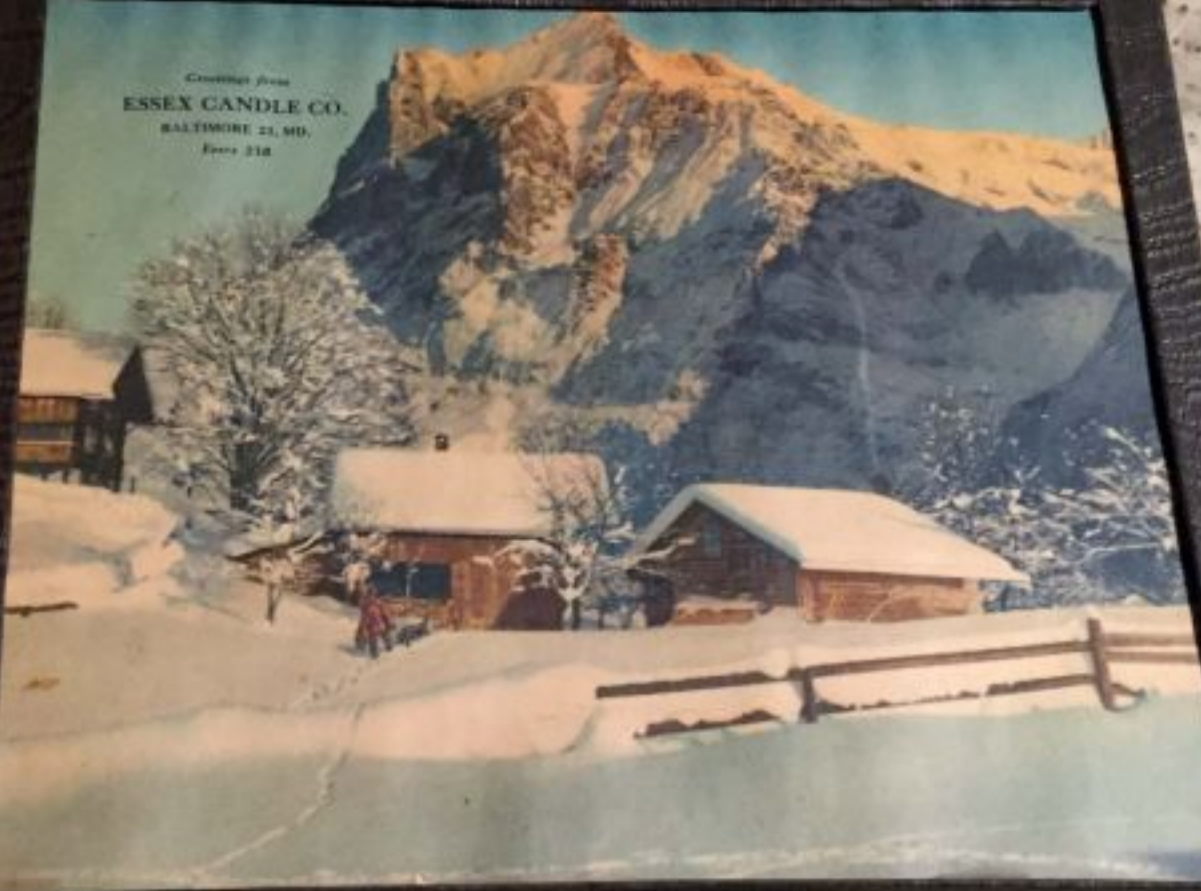


★ **Vandalism**

Greetings from
ESSEX CANDLE CO.
ESSEX, MD.



Candlelight from
ESSEX CANDLE CO.
BALTIMORE 23, MD.
Essex 318



1948 **JANUARY** 1948

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Greetings From
ESSEX CANDLE CO.
ESSEX, MD.
Phone Essex 218













1931 Sales

Aug 3	Jordan Stable	P.	6 45
" 4	Hess	P.	2 92
" 5	Handy Line	P.	2 70
" 5	Hutzler	P.	3 60
" 7	O'Neil	P.	76
" 7	Grayel	P.	2 82
" 8	Cohen	P.	5 37
" 11	Handy Line	P.	1 89
" 12	Lynch Ch. D.	P.	15 90
" 12	Lynch	P.	3 40
" 12	Jordan Stable	P.	21 36
" 12	Hutzler	P.	5 13
" 12	Hess	P.	1 65
" 12	Garrison, Md.	P.	5 00
" 13	Miller	P.	10 20
" 14	M & Grain	P.	5 36
" 15	Handy Line	P.	11 15
" 15	Appleby	P.	7 25
" 15	Jordan Stable	P.	9 72
" 15	Adams	P.	11 34
" 15	Cann	P.	20 10
" 15	Jordan Stable	P.	2 15
" 15	Hutzler	P.	7 77
" 15	Garrison Wash.	P.P. 29	4 59
" 15	Hergemather	P.	9 70
" 20	M & Grain	P.	5 50
" 20	Handy Line	P.	5 62
" 21	Gypsy	P.	4 20
" 21	Handy Line	P.	7 94
" 24	O'Neil	P.	76
" 26	Lachman Del. M. End	P.	56 67
" 26	Hutzler	P.	10 64
" 26	Jordan Stable	P.	7 15
" 28	Stuber	P.	11 81
" 28	Green-Fairbank	P.	12 75

Jordan Stable

14



ESSEX
Candle
Co.

The Spaeths and the Candle Business

When traveling from the north on Route 81, just as you enter Syracuse you will see a large smoke stack to your right. The smokestack identifies Will & Baumer Candle Company.

According to Francis Gamerdinger through Bunnie Rathbun, Will was a cousin of John Spaeth. Reportedly, John helped get Will to this country; furthermore, Will started his small business in the back of John's home. The business was making decorative wax inlays for expensive book covers. Will later parlayed his knowledge of wax along with his offspring into an international candle making business.



John's son Frank Spaeth worked his lifetime as a candlemaker at Will & Baumer. Frank and his family initially lived on North Alvord, which was just down the street from the factory. Sometime after Grace was born the family moved to Pond Lane. This house was originally a Will & Baumer factory house with the office just across the street. *Note: Pictures show Frank inside the plant and outside the North Alvord St. Plant in 1906*

Frank's son's Bude and George worked for Will & Baumer. Bude was later promoted to foreman and subsequently charged to manage a satellite plant in New Jersey. For some reason not immediately known, Bude left Will & Baumer to open his own business in Essex Maryland. Bude secured a trademark for the Essex candle Company on May 20, 1930.

Spaeth relatives looked forward each Christmas to receive an Essex Candle Company calendar that they hung with pride in their homes. After Bude died his wife Hazel donated the old hand operated candle making equipment to a local museum in the Essex area.



